

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the instructions that determine logic to detect when the local ~~file-system~~ storage device is connected.

6. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the instructions that determine logic to detect when the local ~~file-system~~ storage device is disconnected.

7. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the instructions that determine logic to detect when the local ~~file-system~~ storage device is operable.

8. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the instructions that determine logic to detect when the local ~~file-system~~ storage device is inoperable.

9. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the instructions that determine logic to provide feedback to a user when the local ~~file-system~~ storage device is available.

10. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences legie to transition from supporting the processor with the remote and local data from the combination of the virtual-file-system remotely located storage device and the local file-system storage device to supporting the processor with the remote data from the virtual-file-system remotely located storage device when the instructions that determine legie detects that the local file-system storage device is unavailable.

11. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the executable instruction sequences legie is configured to support the processor with the remote data from the virtual-file-system remotely located storage device by receiving the remote data into the memory and causing playback of the remote data from the memory to a screen display.

12. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences legie to substantially simultaneously transfer stored data to the local file-system storage device while receiving additional remote data from the virtual-file-system remotely located storage device to the memory.

13. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the executable instruction sequences legie is configured to support the processor with the local data from the local file-system storage device by receiving the local data into the memory, wherein the executable instruction sequences legie is further configured to cause playback from the memory to a screen display.

14. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the executable instruction sequences legie is configured to support the processor with the local data from the local file ~~system~~ storage device by streaming the local data from the local ~~file-system~~ storage device to a display device.

15. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences legie to receive the remote data through an out-of band channel.

16. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences legie to store in the local ~~file-system~~ storage device data associated with a future media content instance, wherein said data is received into the local ~~file-system~~ storage device in advance of the presentation of said future media content instance.

17. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences legie to receive the remote data from the ~~virtual file-system~~ remotely located storage device to the local ~~file-system~~ storage device while substantially simultaneously uploading the local data from the local ~~file-system~~ storage device.

18. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences legie to perform multiple read operations and multiple write operations in parallel to accessing a plurality of data in the local ~~file-system~~ storage device.

19. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 18, wherein the multiple read operations and the multiple write operations occur substantially concurrently within substantially the same window of time.

20. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 18, wherein the multiple read operations and the multiple write operations share slices of a window of time as if occurring substantially in parallel.

21-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein ~~the a media of the local storage device~~ is partitioned into plural media partitions, including a third media content portion for streaming media content for presentation to a user.

24. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 23, wherein the media partitions are user configurable.

25. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 39, further comprising two tuners for receiving the remote data among a plurality of transmission channels, further comprising an out of band channel for receiving and sending data, further comprising a communication port.

26. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the plurality of the transmission channels includes at least one digital transmission channel and at least one analog transmission channel.

27. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences ~~legie~~ to request a plurality of data simultaneously from the plurality of the transmission channels.

28. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the memory and the local ~~file-system~~ storage device store application data, application executable programs, and data associated with applications, and data associated with media services.

29. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences legie to perform a multiplicity of write operations to the local ~~file-system~~ storage device substantially in parallel to store the local and remote data and application clients from a subscriber television network, from the processor, and from a local device connected to the communication port.

30. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences legie to perform a multiplicity of read operations from the local ~~file-system~~ storage device in parallel to retrieve the local data and application clients previously stored in the local ~~file-system~~ storage device to transmit the respective local data and application clients to a local device connected to the communication port, to the memory for use by an application client or operating system executing in the processor, and to be transmitted to a destination in the subscriber network.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences legie to substantially simultaneously permanently record a media content instance received from one transmission channel and temporarily store a second media content instance received from another transmission channel.

33. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences legie to permanently record two media content instances substantially simultaneously from two different transmission channels.

34. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences ~~legie~~ to substantially simultaneously display three media content instances, wherein the two media content instances are received from the transmission channels and the third media content instance is received from the local ~~file-system~~ storage device.

35. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 25, wherein media content instances from the transmission channels are received in real-time.

36. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, further comprising an application client, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences ~~legie~~ to use the memory and the local ~~file-system~~ storage device for storing application client data in data structures with time-sensitive data entries maintained by an application client daemon task.

37. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 36, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences ~~legie~~ to receive the application client data from an in-band tuner.

38. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 36, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences ~~legie~~ to receive the application client data from a plurality of in-band tuners.

39. (Previously presented) A digital home communication terminal (DHCT) comprising:

- a memory that stores executable instruction sequences; and
- a processor that executes the stored executable instruction sequences, the stored executable instruction sequences including:
 - an electronic programming guide (EPG) application that provides user access to EPG information;
 - a dual mode file system that provides a common interface to both a local storage device and a remotely located storage device;

wherein the EPG application further includes:

- instructions that determine whether a local storage device is coupled to the DHCT;
- instructions that use the dual mode file system to retrieve the EPG information from the remotely located storage device and store the EPG information in the memory, responsive to determining that the local storage device is not coupled to the DHCT;
- instructions that use the dual mode file system to retrieve the EPG information from the remotely located storage device and store the EPG information in the local storage device, responsive to determining that the local storage device is coupled to the DHCT;

wherein the electronic programming guide information includes a list of media content instances for a standard amount of days, a list of media content instances for an extended amount of days, channels for the media content instances, standard description information for the media content instances, long description information for the media content instances, and media content instance preview audio and video clips.

40. (Currently amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured to receive the retrieved electronic programming guide information entirely into the memory rather than into the local ~~file-system~~ storage device, wherein the processor is further configured to access the electronic programming guide information in memory for presentation in a display device.

41. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured to store the retrieved electronic programming guide information entirely into the local ~~file-system~~ storage device, wherein processor is further configured to access the stored electronic programming guide information for presentation in a display device.

42. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences ~~legie~~ to receive the list of media content instances for an extended amount of days and the corresponding standard description information into the local ~~file-system~~ storage device.

43. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to receive the list of media content instances for an extended amount of days and the corresponding standard description information and long description information into the local ~~file-system~~ storage device.

44. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to receive the long description information into the local ~~file-system~~ storage device for the list of media content instances for the standard amount of days stored in the memory.

45. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to receive the media content instance preview audio and data clips associated with the media content instance in the list of media content instances for the standard amount of days and store said media content instance preview audio and data clips into the memory.

46. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to transfer said media content instance preview audio and data clips from the memory to the local ~~file-system~~ storage device, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to access said media content instance preview audio and data clips from the local ~~file-system~~ storage device to the memory, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to present said media content preview audio and data clips on a display device from the memory.

47. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to transfer said media content instance preview audio and data clips from the memory to the local ~~file-system~~ storage device, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to access said media content instance preview audio and data clips from the local ~~file-system~~ storage device and present said media content instance preview audio and data clips on a display device from the local ~~file-system~~ storage device.

48. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences ~~legie~~ to access sprites from the virtual file system remotely located storage device and store in the local file-system storage device to augment the presentation of media content instances when retrieved from the local file-system storage device from an application client.

49. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to retrieve hyper-linked data corresponding to a media content instance before the presentation of said media content instance.

50. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to maintain hyper-linked data in entries in a hyper-linked data structure indexed by time and date and service.

51. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 39, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to maintain hyper-linked data in entries in a hyper-linked data structure indexed by time and date and channel.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 51, wherein the hyper-linked data structure provides a channel directory and subdirectories segregated into time blocks corresponding to a media content instance time period of presentation, wherein the time blocks include a current time block and an upcoming time block.

54. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 53, wherein the current time block and upcoming time block are further segregated into time slots of increased granularity corresponding to a timed presentation of the hyper-linked data with a corresponding instance in a media content instance within said time blocks.

55. (Previously presented) The DHCT of claim 54, wherein the hyper-linked data structure is updated continuously to maintain the hyper-linked data for current and upcoming media content instances.

56. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 55, wherein the processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to update the hyper-linked data when the time and date has substantially elapsed.

57. (Currently Amended) The DHCT of claim 56, wherein processor is further configured with the executable instruction sequences to use the local ~~file-system~~ storage device for caching hyper-linked data into the local ~~file-system~~ storage device from ~~the a virtual file system~~ remotely located storage device, wherein the hyper-linked data corresponds to data located in a designated time slot of a presentation of a media content instance, wherein ~~the an~~ application client is further configured to retrieve the hyper-linked data from the local ~~file-system~~ storage device and present it during its designated time slot during the presentation of the media content instance.

58-94. (Cancelled)

95. (Previously presented) A method in a digital home communication terminal (DHCT) comprising the steps of:

determining whether a local storage device is coupled to the DHCT;

retrieving electronic programming guide (EPG) information from a remotely located storage device, through a dual mode file system that provides a common interface to both the remotely located storage device and the local storage device;

responsive to determining that the local storage device is not coupled to the DHCT, storing the EPG information in a memory residing in the DHCT, through a dual mode file system;

responsive to determining that the local storage device is coupled to the DHCT, storing at least a portion of the EPG information in the local storage device, through a dual mode file system; and

presenting the EPG information responsive to a user request;

wherein the electronic programming guide information includes a list of media content instances for a standard amount of days, a list of media content instances for an extended amount of days, channels for the media content instances, standard description information for the media content instances, long description information for the media content instances, and media content instance preview audio and video clips.

96. (Previously presented) The method of claim 95, further comprising the step of receiving the electronic programming guide information entirely into a memory residing in the DHCT, further comprising the step of accessing the electronic programming guide information for presentation in a display device.

97. (Currently amended) The method of claim 95, further comprising the step of receiving the electronic programming guide information entirely into the local ~~file-system~~ storage device, further comprising the step of accessing the electronic programming guide information for presentation in a display device.

98. (Previously presented) The method of claim 95, further comprising the step of receiving the long description information into the local storage device for the list of media content instances for the standard amount of days stored in a memory.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 95, further comprising the step of receiving the media content instance preview audio and data clips associated with the media content instance in the list of the media content instances for the standard amount of days and storing said media content instance preview audio and data clips into a memory.

100. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, further comprising the step of transferring said media content instance preview audio and data clips from the memory to the local storage device, further comprising the step of accessing said media content instance preview audio and data clips from the local storage device to the memory, further comprising the step of presenting said media content instance preview audio and data clips on a display device from the memory.

101. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, further comprising the step of transferring said media content instance preview audio and data clips from the memory to the local storage device, further comprising the step of accessing said media content instance preview audio and data clips from the local storage device and presenting said media content instance preview audio and data clips on a display device from the local storage device.

102-128. (Cancelled)

129. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium having a program stored thereon for execution in a digital home communication terminal (DHCT) comprising the steps of:

- logic configured to determine whether a local storage device is coupled to the DHCT;
- logic configured to retrieve electronic programming guide (EPG) information from a remotely located storage device, through a dual mode file system that provides a common interface to both the remotely located storage device and the local storage device ;
- logic configured to store the EPG information in a memory residing in the DHCT, through a dual mode file system, responsive to the determination that the local storage device is not coupled to the DHCT;
- logic configured to store at least a portion of the EPG information in the local storage device, through a dual mode file system, responsive to the determination that the local storage device is coupled to the DHCT; and
- logic configured to present the EPG information responsive to a user request;

wherein the EPG information includes a list of media content instances for a standard amount of days, a list of media content instances for an extended amount of days, channels for the media content instances, standard description information for the media content instances, long description information for the media content instances, and media content instance preview audio and video clips.

130. (Previously presented) A dual mode file method in a digital home communication terminal (DHCT) comprising the steps of:

determining whether a local storage device is coupled to the DHCT;

responsive to determining that the local storage device is not coupled to the DHCT, retrieving, from a remotely located virtual file system, first electronic programming guide (EPG) information and storing the first EPG information in a memory residing in the DHCT; the first EPG information including a list of media content instances for only a standard number of days , and

responsive to determining that the local storage device is coupled to the DHCT, retrieving, from the remotely located virtual file system, first and second electronic programming guide (EPG) information and storing the first EPG information in a memory residing in the DHCT and the second EPG information in the local storage device; the second EPG information including a list of media content instances for an extended number of days, and

presenting the EPG information responsive to a user request.